

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SY-05 /070 W

----- 035218

R 080916Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9289

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS

SUBJECT: MISSIONARIES VISIT TUNNEL

1. ROK PRESS CARRIED STORY MORNING APRIL 7 THAT FOLLOWING BRIEFING AT I CORPS (ROK/US) GROUP HEADQUARTERS, THIRTY-TWO FOREIGN MISSIONARIES WERE SHOWN MOST RECENTLY DISCOVERED TUNNEL IN 6TH DIVISION AREA AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6. PRESS REPORTS CARRIED COMMENTS OF SEVERAL OF THE MISSIONARIES VALIDATING TUNNEL'S EXISTENCE AND EMPHASIZING THREAT IT REPRESENTS TO ROK. REPORTS INDICATED VISIT ARRANGED BY CHAPLAIN'S SECTION OF ROK ARMY.

2. UNC HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING SCENARIO OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THIS TOUR WHICH DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE. UNC'S ARMISTICE AFFAIRS DIVISION (AAD) FIRST LEARNED OF POSSIBLE MISSIONARY VISIT TO TUNNEL APRIL 3 FROM US NAVY RESERVE CHAPLAIN WHO HAD BEEN INVITED ON TRIP BY ROKS. IN RESPONSE AAD QUERY, ROK MND OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT PERMISSION FOR MISSIONARIES TO ENTER DMZ DENIED AND GAVE ASSURANCES THAT MISSIONARIES WOULD
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NOT ENTER BUT ONLY GO NEAR DMZ.

3. AFTERNOON, APRIL 7 US OFFICER LEADING JOINT OBSERVER TEAM AT TUNNEL SITE TELEPHONED AAD THAT GROUP OF CIVILIAN MISSIONARIES WAS ON ITS WAY TO TUNNEL. AAD ADVISED OFFICER ON SCENE THAT VISIT NOT AUTHORIZED AND THIS MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO CG FIFTH ROK CORPS WHO ACCOMPANIED MISSIONARIES. DESPITE THIS AND SUBSEQUENT WARNING THAT VISIT NOT AUTHORIZED, CG FIFTH ROK CORPS TOOK MISSIONARIES INTO TUNNEL, STATING THAT VISIT AUTHORIZED BY I CORPS (US/ROK) GROUP HEADQUARTERS. UNC TELLS US NO SUCH AUTHORIZATION GIVEN BY ANY UNC COMMAND AND UNC CONCLUDES CG FIFTH CORPS ACTED ON HIS OWN.

4. MORNING APRIL 8 FOLLOWING APPEARANCE OF STORY IN PRESS CINCUNC TOOK MATTER UP WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SUH COMMENTING TO MINISTER THAT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO DMZ WAS NOT THE WAY TO DO BUSINESS. MND AGREED WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT.

5. UNC INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP MATTER.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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